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DERMATOGLYPHICS IN PEOPLES OF THE NEAR EAST

I. LEBANESE: MITWALI

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121 This report is presented as a record of data toward an eventual analysis of racial variation in dermatoglyphics. It is to be hoped that a broad comparison of races on this basis may be eventually possible, but it will be necessary to continue the accumulation of records on various populations, perhaps from time to time taking stock of progress as has been done recently by Steggerda, Steggerda and Lane for the palmar features (Middle American Research Series, publication 7, Tulane University, '36).

124 101 795 The material here treated represents a population not hitherto investigated from the standpoint of dermatoglyphics. The Mitwali are a Syrian mountain people, living in the southern Lebanon range. They are Moslems, but adhere to the Shiite sect rather than to the Sunni which is common to the region. There are 138 subjects in the series, males and females being in the proportion of about two to one; in view of the small numbers the sexes are combined. The subjects are mainly children in the government schools, the adult population having proved generally unsuitable for printing—on account of extensive callouses.

141 128 The palmar features, main lines and patterns, are tabulated in tables 1 and 2, their formulations following the methods of Cummins et al. (Am. J. Phys. Anthrop., XII, '29).

The data on lines A and D have been further analyzed, to determine the main-line index which has been suggested by Cummins (Middle American Research Series, Tulane University, publication 7, '36) as a value denoting the degree of slant of the general palmar configuration. For the 276 hands

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